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PORTO RICO.

Report from San Juan—Quarantine transactions—Vital statistics.

SAN JUAN, P. R., *October 6, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following report of quarantine transactions at this and the 6 subports of the island of Porto Rico for the month of September, 1902:

San Juan.—Number of vessels inspected, 12; number of bills of health issued, 22; number of vessels held in quarantine, 4; number of pieces of baggage disinfected, 32; number of sacks of mail disinfected, 11; number of persons detained in quarantine at the island, none; number of persons vaccinated, 3; number of vessels disinfected, none.

The French steamship *Saint Simon*, from St. Marc, Gonaives, Port au Prince, Cape Haitien, Puerto Plata, and Sanchez, arrived upon the 17th instant. All bills of health clean, and all passengers for Porto Rico considered immunes and allowed to land. This vessel was held in quarantine under guard while she remained in port. Seven pieces of baggage and 4 sacks of mail were removed to the quarantine station and disinfected.

On the 18th the Spanish steamship *Buenos Aires* arrived from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, via Ponce. It was found upon inspection of this vessel that one of the steerage passengers from Lima, who embarked at Colon, after a two days' stay at the latter place, was suffering from a suspicious illness. The steamship was placed in quarantine under guard, and the body of the passenger, who died on the night of the 18th, removed on the following day to the quarantine station and buried there after an autopsy was held. The diagnosis in this case, owing to certain peculiar conditions, could not be determined, and can only be regarded as "suspicious" until the result of the examination of the pathological specimens from the cadaver is had. The steamship declined disinfection here, sailing for European ports on the 19th. One sack of mail for San Juan taken from this steamship required disinfection.

The Cuban steamships *Julia* and *Maria Herrera*, of the Herrera Line, arrived at this port upon the 19th and 28th, respectively. These vessels were upon their regular schedules from Cuban and Dominican ports, and both had undergone their usual disinfection at Santiago de Cuba prior to clearing for Porto Rico, and as the bills of health presented by both were clean they were granted free pratique. They carried no non-immune passengers for Porto Rico. The *Julia* carried 5 pieces of baggage and 1 sack of mail, and the *Maria Herrera* 15 pieces of baggage and 1 sack of mail, which were required to be disinfected here.

The steamships *Caracas* and *Philadelphia*, of the American Red D. Line, were both placed in quarantine under guard upon their arrival here upon the 10th and 24th, respectively. These steamships entered from ports in Venezuela and both presented foul bills of health signed by the American consul at La Guaira, Venezuela. The *Philadelphia* brought 5 pieces of baggage and 4 sacks of mail requiring disinfection. Both vessels remained in port for a few hours only to take passengers, mail, and a small amount of cargo for New York.

The following embraces the number of vessels inspected at each of the subports during the month: Mayaguez, 7; Arecibo, 2; Humacao; 5; Aguadilla, none; Fajardo, 1; Arroyo, none.

The following are the mortality statistics from the subports: Maya-

guez, 111; Arecibo, 125; Humacao, 22; Aguadilla, 42; Fajardo, 21; Arroyo, 13.

Respectfully,

H. S. MATHEWSON,
Passed Assistant Surgeon,
Chief Quarantine Officer for Porto Rico.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

[Inclosure.]

Vital statistics of San Juan, P. R., for the month of September, 1902.

Œdema of the lungs	1	Measles	2
Anæmia	1	Meningitis	3
Anthrax	1	Mitral insufficiency	2
Aortic insufficiency	10	Myelitis	1
Arterio-sclerosis	1	Nephritis	1
Bright's disease	1	Old Age	1
Bronchitis	3	Pernicious fever	2
Cachexiæ	3	Pneumonia	3
Cancer of the uterus	2	Rachitis	8
Cerebral congestion	1	Serous congestion	1
Dropsy	4	Tetanus	3
Dysentery	1	Tuberculosis, pulmonary	11
Endocarditis	5	Tyyhoid fever	1
Electrical shock	2		
Enteritis	2	Total	98
Entero-colitis	2		
Epilepsy	2	August, 1901—	
Erysipelas	1	Births	64
Gastro-enteritis	12	Deaths	51
La grippe	1	August, 1902—	
Hepatitis	1	Births	78
Intussusception of intestine	1	Deaths	98
Malaria	1		

Reports from Ponce.

PONCE, P. R., *September 29, 1902.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 27, 1902. During the week two vessels were inspected, one passed, and the German steamship *Hispania*, from La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Curaçao, Oquen, and St. Thomas, was held in quarantine. No cargo or passengers for this port. This vessel loaded cargo in quarantine and sailed on the same day. Eight bills of health were issued.

On the 28th instant I invited the physicians of the city and others interested to visit the disinfecting barge and inspect the machinery in operation. They seemed very much interested and pleased that this port should be well equipped.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

PONCE, P. R., *October 6, 1902.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended October 4, 1902. Also the report of the inspection of immigrants for the month of September, 1902.

Two vessels were inspected and passed and 2 bills of health were issued.

The sanitary condition of the city is about the same.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.